

Discussion of Policy Option of Combining the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs with the Iowa Veterans Home

Name of program/function/unit considered/department:

Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

Annual Budget/Funding Sources/FTE's:

\$188,193.00 / Appropriated / 3 FTE's

Results data available:

Other funds leveraged, if any:

Veterans license plate fund, Iowa Lottery Scratch ticket

Relevant federal mandates, if any (including maintenance of effort requirements):

Summary of program/function/unit, including any important background

information: Services provided to: Naval recruiters, Air Force recruiters, Army Recruiters, Marine recruiters, National Guard recruiters, State Veterans Affairs offices nationwide, job service facilities nationwide, Iowa Workforce Development, other state veterans service officers nationwide, Iowa National Guard Record Center, Federal Veterans Regional offices, VA Medical Centers nationwide, Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Lottery, Iowa Department of Elder Affairs, Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa State Fair Authority, Gold Star Museum, Iowa Association of County Commissioners of Veterans Affairs, all Iowa county veterans offices, Iowa Veterans Council, Iowa Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, American Ex-Prisoner of War, American Veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea, America Legion, Vietnam (AMVETS), WAVES, Iowa National Guard, and last but definitely not least the veterans and public who to travel to Camp Dodge to inquire about records, assistance, programs and activities provided by the Camp Dodge office. Currently, the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs is involved in Operation Recognition, Discharge Archival, Operation Awareness, Thank a Veteran and Vote program, War Orphans Fund, Merchant Marine Bonus program, Veterans License Plate program, Spring and Fall Schools of Instruction, ISU Veterans Day football game, Iowa State Fair parade, Iowa Lottery veterans scratch ticket

Comparison with other states:

Many states have Veterans Home which are under the State Veterans Affairs office, however none where they are one and the same. The veterans homes provide health care and facilities, whereas the state offices provide administrative assistance, program assistance, and information to the remaining veterans of the state. Medical care and administrative services are not one and the same.

Impacts of elimination on Iowans/other departments/other levels of government:

Naval recruiters, Air Force recruiters, Army Recruiters, Marine recruiters, National Guard recruiters, State Veterans Affairs offices nationwide, job service facilities nationwide, Iowa Workforce Development, other state veterans service officers nationwide, Iowa National Guard Record Center, Federal Veterans Regional offices, VA Medical Centers nationwide, Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Lottery, Iowa Department of Elder Affairs, Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa State Fair Authority, Gold Star Museum, Iowa Association of County Commissioners of Veterans Affairs, all Iowa county veterans offices, Iowa Veterans Council, Iowa Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, American Ex-Prisoner of War, American Veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam (AMVETS), WAVES, Iowa National Guard, and last but definitely not least the veterans and public who to travel to Camp Dodge to inquire about records, assistance, programs and activities provided by the Camp Dodge office.

Advantages of eliminating the program/function/unit:

Misappropriation of veterans program funds would be less easily detected.

Disadvantages of eliminating the program/function/unit:

Please see attached page.

Other important considerations: Currently, the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs is involved in Operation Recognition, Discharge Archival, Operation Awareness, Thank a Veteran and Vote program, War Orphans Fund, Merchant Marine Bonus program, Veterans License Plate program, Spring and Fall Schools of Instruction, ISU Veterans Day football game, Iowa State Fair Veterans Day parade, Iowa Lottery veterans scratch ticket

IDOM/IGOV Recommendation:

Disadvantages of Combining the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs with the Iowa Veterans Home

1. The Iowa General Assembly recognizes the IVH and the Camp Dodge facility have, by their natures, completely different reasons for existence...daily activities and goals are completely polar in nature, and this is clearly set forth in the Code of Iowa, and in pertaining regulations and policy statements. Consequently, each facility must retain its integrity and its individuality to accomplish these activities and goals.
2. Any purported savings to be realized by moving the Camp Dodge facility to the IVH has not been set forth in the past.
3. The Camp Dodge facility is geographically much closer to the center of veterans' affairs in Iowa. The headquarters of state veterans organizations, the VA Regional Office, the VA Medical Center, and the State Capitol, where veterans' legislative matters can be more quickly addressed, are in much closer proximity to Camp Dodge.
4. Consideration toward consolidating the Camp Dodge and IVH budgets into one overall budget is also a bad idea. Again, because of the pointed differences in activities and desired goals, Camp Dodge operations need an independent budget, and the ability to lobby for such a budget in the same manner, as would any other state agency in a similar condition.
5. Such a situation, a merger of budgets, also begs the question, "what would happen to the Camp Dodge operation's needs in a lean year if the budgets were merged?"
6. Furthermore, there is no space available at the IVH for the Camp Dodge operation, and Acting Commandant Daniel Gammon confirmed this to be a fact. What would it cost to change this situation?
7. And irrespective of the above considerations if, ***and only if*** the Camp Dodge operations were moved to the IVH its office would have to be located in a separate and secure area because of confidentiality requirements, and because such would be necessary to maintain objective anonymity of interests, otherwise there would most certainly be a conflict of priorities.
8. **The IVH is the healthcare entity for the veterans of the state of Iowa. Camp Dodge is the administrative entity, including information requested that has nothing to do with healthcare. Let Camp Dodge do the job they are required to do for the veterans and their dependents in the state of Iowa and IVH do the job they are required to do for the veterans that are in need of healthcare. We certainly do not want any of our veterans that had to take time out of their lives to fight for us, to fall through the cracks for any reason.**